

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
IO-14 DPW-01 DHA-02 /080 W
-----031851Z 058168 /42
Z 031938Z JUN 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 3597

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 16470

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E.O.1162: N/A

TAGS: PFOR US VN

SUBJ: PHAN HIEN-HOLBROOKE REMARKS - PARIS TALKS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS
BY RICHARD HOLBROOKE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS AND PHAN HIEN,
VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS UPON COMPLETION OF
THE TALKS ON NORMALIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S.
AND THE SRV, JUNE 3, 1977.

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

MR. HOLBROOKE: WE JUST COMPLETED TWO MORE DAYS OF
TALKS. WE TALKED FOR ABOUT SEVEN HOURS AND I WOULD
LIKE TO GIVE MY MINISTER THE FIRST WORD.

MINISTER PHAN HIEN (TRANSLATION): WE COMPLETED THIS
ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE THE PLEASURE TO
INFORM YOU THAT WE HAVE FURTHER NEWS CONCERNING THE
MISSING SERVICEMEN OF THE NATION. WE RECENTLY
ANNOUNCED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO FIND ABOUT 20 - TWENTY
TO BE PRECISE - MISSING BODIES OF SERVICEMEN. THE
LIST WAS TRANSMITTED TO MR. HOLBROOKE AND WE WILL
MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO RETURN THE REMAINS IN THE FUTURE.
WITH THE TWO REMAINS ANNOUNCED THE LAST TIME, SINCE
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OUR MEETING WITH MR. WOODCOCK, WE HAVE THE REMAINS
OF 22 WHO MUST BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES. THUS
WE HAVE SHOWN OUR GREAT WILLINGNESS AND SERIOUS ATTITUDE
IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TOWARD
NORMALIZING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION PRESENTED AND EXPLAINED IN

MORE DETAIL THE POSITION OF THE THREE PROBLEMS:
PROBLEM OF THE MIA'S, PROBLEM OF THE UNITED STATES
CONTRIBUTION TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND PROBLEM
OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES. WELL, WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN GREATER DETAIL
OUR POSITION AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED DIRECT AND IN AN
ATMOSPHERE OF FRANKNESS WITH THE AMERICAN SIDE, WITH
MR. HOLBROOKE. THERE REMAIN DIFFERENCES TO BE SETTLED;
IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUE
OUR CONVERSATIONS. THE TIME AND PLACE WILL BE
DETERMINED LATER AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. WE ALSO
THANK MR. HOLBROOKE AND HIS COLLEAGUES FOR THE
HOSPITALITY OFFERED IN RECEIVING US FOR THESE
CONVERSATIONS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PARIS.
MR. HOLBROOKE: AS MINISTER PHAN HIEN JUST SAID, WE
HAVE CONCLUDED ALMOST SEVEN HOURS OF USEFUL AND
FRUITFUL TALKS. IN THE COURSE OF THEM, THE VIETNAMESE
SIDE OFFERED US INFORMATION CONCERNING AN ADDITIONAL
TWENTY AMERICAN SERVICEMEN WHO WERE LOST IN ACTION IN
VIETNAM. THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF
THE NAMES UNTIL THE IDENTIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN CONFIRM-
ED BY THE UNITED STATES CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION
LABORATORY IN HAWAII AFTER THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS.
THE FAMILIES OF THE MEN WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE LIST
ARE BEING INFORMED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE MILITARY
SERVICES, PROBABLY STARTING VERY SOON. ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS WILL BE WORKED OUT
THROUGH THE TECHNICAL CHANNEL ESTABLISHED FOR EX-
CHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT. WE EXPRESSED
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OUR APPRECIATION TO THIS POSITIVE ACTION ON THE PART
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WE AGREED TO
MEET AGAIN ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT SET THE EXACT DATE AT
THIS TIME, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT THE MOV-
ING TOWARDS ALL NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES.

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IO-14 DPW-01 DHA-02 /080 W

-----031851Z 058208 /46

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QUESTION: COULD YOU GIVE US AN IDEA OF THE MAIN
STUMBLING BLOCKS AT THIS POINT THAT STILL HAVE TO BE
IRONED OUT?

ANSWER: WELL, I THINK AFTER TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN
AT WAR FOR SO LONG, AND HAD SO MANY YEARS WITHOUT
CLOSE OR INDEED WITHOUT ANY COMMUNICATIONS FOR MUCH
OF THAT TIME, IT JUST TAKES A LONG TIME TO EXPLAIN
ONE'S POSITIONS AND WORK OUT THE BASE FOR COMMON
UNDERSTANDING AND THAT'S WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO
NOW, MR. KALISHER.

QUESTION: COULD YOU SAY THAT YOU MOVED AHEAD OF
THE LAST GET-TOGETHER?

ANSWER: I THINK THAT EACH ONE OF THESE ROUNDS OF
TALKS IS IMPORTANT IN THAT WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND AND
EXPLAIN EACH OTHER'S POINTS OF VIEW. THERE ARE
DIFFERENCES THAT REMAIN BETWEEN US. I THINK YOU ARE
WELL AWARE OF WHAT THOSE ARE. BUT AS I SAID, WE VIEW
THIS AS A POSITIVE ACTION, THE STEPS THAT THE
VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN TO FURTHER THE EXCHANGE
OF INFORMATION ON MIA'S.

QUESTION: HAS THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, THE RESOLU-
TION ABOUT THE, AGAINST THE NEGOTIATION, AND AGAINST
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ANY SORT OF FINANCIAL SET UP HAS THAT COOLED THE
ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS AT ALL? THE HOUSE ACTION?

ANSWER: I WOULD PREFER NOT TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF
THAT SORT NOW BECAUSE I THINK WE WANTED JUST TO
DISCUSS BRIEFLY WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH
IN THE LAST TWO DAYS HERE. SO, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE
ME...

QUESTION: WAS THAT A HINDRANCE IN ACCOMPLISHING
WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST TWO DAYS?

ANSWER: IT IS A FACT THAT EXISTS AND ONE THAT MUST

BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AS WE DISCUSS OUR POSITIONS.
QUESTION: DOES IT LOOK LIKE THE VIETNAMESE HAVE
GIVEN YOU SOMETHING AND HAVE YOU MATCHED THIS...
ANSWER: WELL, I WOULD NOT ACCEPT YOUR CHARACTERIZA-
TION. THIS WAS PART OF A PROCESS WHICH HAD BEEN
AGREED UPON DURING MR. WOODCOCK'S TRIP TO HANOI IN
MARCH, AND WE ARE VERY GRATIFIED THAT THE SYSTEM
THAT WAS THEN SET UP IS NOW FUNCTIONING IN A
VISIBLE AND PUBLIC WAY. THANK YOU MR. HOLBROOKE.
(TRANSLATION)
MINISTER PHAN HIEN: I WISH TO ADD THAT MR. HOLBROOKE
AND I DECIDED TO UNITE EFFORTS TO ATTAIN THE GOAL
OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
END OF TRANSCRIPT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, PRESS RELEASES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS16470
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770198-1030
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770693/aaaadden.tel
Line Count: 185
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3752c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2286850
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHAN HIEN-HOLBROOKE REMARKS - PARIS TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, US, VN, VM, (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD), (PAHAN HIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3752c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009